

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON COLEBROOK INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
1,500 SQUARE FOOT EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF WELCOME CENTER**

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces construction work is underway on the expansion and renovation of the Colebrook Welcome Center on U.S. Route 3 that will include a Great North Woods Interpretive Center.

This project involves extensive renovations to the existing Welcome Center and adding 1,500 square feet of space to the building. In addition to the rest area, the completed larger building will provide accommodations for the North Country Chamber of Commerce, an Interpretive Center, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

The idea of an interpretive center began three years ago with a gathering of about 100 people at the Balsams Resort Hotel in Dixville Notch. Its purpose is to spotlight the culture, natural diversity, history, business, recreational and tourist aspects of the upper Great North Woods.

The Chamber of Commerce will have an office and conference room in the renovated section of the existing rest area. The Interpretive Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge will share a large room added onto the existing rest area that will include exhibit space, tourism information, a regional calendar of events, and information on the Conte Refuge.

Federal funding for the project was obtained via the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge through the efforts of U.S. Senator Judd Gregg and former State Senator Fred King. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will continue to own and manage the Welcome Center.

RLR Enterprises, Inc., of Center Conway, New Hampshire, is the general contractor for the \$232,000 project, which is scheduled to be completed in January 2002.